THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has initiated a pilot project for Computerisation and networking of Courts in the four metropolises of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai at a cost of Rs. 14.91 crores, on the basis of estimates prepared by the National Informatics Centre. These courts will serve as models of computerised courts for the District Courts in the country.

Out of the amount of Rs. 8.53 crore allotted during 2001-02, Rs. 4.98 crore has been released for the computerisation project of District Courts in Delhi. The remaining amount of Rs. 3.55 crore has been released to the three metropolitan cities of Chennai (Rs. 0.82 crore), Kolkata (Rs. 1.17 crore) and Mumbai (Rs. 1.56 crore) respectively.

The amount of Rs. 6.40 crore earmarked for the project in the year 2002-03 will be released under the project in the three metropolitan cities of Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai after reviewing the progress by the Project Steering Committee and on receipt of due utilization certificates from the concerned State Government.

Disposal of pending cases

4894. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view nearly two crore pending cases in the subordinate courts, the Supreme Court has asked the States to undertake large scale appointments of Judges before March, 31, 2002;

(b) whether the apex court has suggested to have 50 Judges for 10 lakh population;

(c) if so, Government's plan in this regard; and

(d) whether Government will lay down an action plan to see that pending cases are disposed of as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court, *vide* its judgment dated 21.3.2002, in All India Judges' Association & Others *Vs.* Union of India & Others, has directed that the existing vacancies in the Subordinate Courts at all levels should be filled, if possible latest by 31st March, 2003, in all the States. The Hon'ble Court has also directed that an increase in the judge strength from

the existing ratio of 10.5 or 13 per 10 lakh people to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented within a period of five years.

(c) and (d) The Supreme Court's judgment of 21st March, 2002, *inter-alia*, contains time limits for the compliance of the directions by the Central Government for the Union Territories and the respective State Governments/ High Courts for the States. The Apex Court has further directed that the States as well as the Union of India shall submit their compliance report by 30th September, 2002. The Government has since forwarded the judgment of the Supreme Court to State Government/U.T. Administrations for necessary action.

On the other hand, the Government is already seized of this matter and has endeavoured constantly to bring about improvements in the functioning of courts with a view to simplifying procedures and delivering cost effective and speedy justice. The Government has also been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in courts. Besides increasing the Judge strength from time to time, the Government has also set up/encouraged alternative modes of disposal including conciliation, mediation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Labour Courts, Consumer Courts, etc. have been set up to expedite disposal of cases. Information technology is being used in courts, and for generation of cause lists, providing information to the litigants/ Advocates etc. for speedy disposal of cases. Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has requested all the State Governments and High Courts *vide* letters dated 4.4.2001 and 26.4.2002 to fill up the vacant posts of District Judges and other Judges/Magistrates of the subordinate Judiciary.

Delimitation Commission

4895. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been finalized to appoint a Delimitation Commission for determining the electoral constituencies in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to undertake readjustment of electoral constituencies pertaining to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of States including those reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled